Setting up of Amphibious Warfare Training School

811. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to set up a new Amphibious Warfare Training School, for forging closer ties between the Army, Navy and Air Force in training and operations;

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter and the progress so far made in that direction; and

(c) whether the recent Tsunami relief operations underlined the need for quick and joint action between the Armed Forces and for forging the spirit of jointness among the three arms of the defence forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The report of the Tri Service Committee on Joint Training had proposed that a "School of Amphibious Warfare" be established as a Joint Training Institute. However, after due deliberations, Chiefs of Staff Committee directed that instead of a joint training establishment, a "Joint Amphibious Cell" be established. Based on the above directive, a "Joint Amphibious Cell" has been established at Headquarter Integrated Defence Staff and is functioning since March 2003 for Amphibious Warfare related Training and Operations of the three Services.

(c) The recent Tsunami relief operations underlined the need for quick and joint action between the Armed Forces. The Tsunami relief operations were effectively and jointly executed by Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (Operation Branch).

Facilities for Youth at recruitment rallies

812. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of Kannadigas in the Indian Army;

(b) how many youths from various parts of Karnataka attended the recruitment rally held in Bangalore in November, 2004;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that these youths had to sleep on the footpaths as no arrangements for their stay etc., had been made by the Defence authorities in Bangalore; and

(d) if so, will the Government take steps to provide accommodation, toilet, bathing and other facilities to the youths who come from different parts of Karnataka for tests in Bangalore?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Every male citizen of the country irrespective their caste, class, religion, region and domicile is eligible for recruitment in the Army provided he meets the laid down physical, educational, medical and other criteria where specified. No separate data for a particular caste/community is being maintained.

(b) A total of 2188 candidates from various parts of Karnataka state participated in the recruitment rally held in Bangalore in November, 2004.

(c) and (d) There was a media report pertaining to the recruitment rally at Bangalore in November, 2004 alleging lack of adequate arrangements by the civil administration. It is not the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence to make arrangements for stay etc., of the aspiring candidates. Before holding any recruitment rally, the Army Headquarters liaise with the civil administration and request them to provide civic amenities and security cover to conduct the recruitment rally. Adequate advance notice will be given in future to the civil administration concerned before holding recruitment rallies for making appropriate arrangements in this regard.

Recommendations of Ajai Vikram Singh Committee

†813. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the recommendations of Ajai Vikram Singh Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that army doctors, veterinary doctors and dentists have been ignored in these recommendations due to which there is great resentment among them; and

(d) the arrangements being made by Government to do justice with the army doctors, veterinary doctors and dentists?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ajai Vikram Singh Committee addresses the twin problems of reducing the age profile of field commanders and cadre stagnation. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, the following orders pertaining

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.